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which has had the effect of lessening the demand for hay, that in the early part of the spring was selling high.

The young clover and grass look extremely well, and promise a plentiful and early supply of food for store cattle.—Where rye-grass is sown with clover, the crops appear most forward, and if farmers would give a preference to that species of grass-seed, they would generally find their account in it—one bushel to an acre is a sufficient quantity where clover accompanies it.

The markets continue to be plentifully supplied with oat-meal and potatoes at a moderate price, and grain of every kind has experienced no rise since last report.

#### COMMERCIAL REPORT.

THE following description of a British merchant, which lately appeared in a London periodical publication, is so well drawn, and develops so many useful commercial maxims, and explains the difference between past and present times, that we are induced to present it to our readers, as an introduction to the present report:

“His conduct and maxims in business, formed a striking contrast with those which before his death became so very prevalent, and which are now convulsing the commercial system in this country. He never dreamed of getting rich by one adventure, or of risking his own, and the property of others, for the purpose of making a sudden fortune. The British merchant of former times, was one of the most useful and important citizens of whom this island could boast; an agent, who connected different countries by the ties of interest and correspondence, making their commercial intercourse of mutual benefit, and transmitting the productions of different climates to the inhabitants of all. He was the organ of communication, by which the abundance of one country, and the wants of another were made known, and he received from one its redundancies, and supplied the wants of the other. He acted upon solid information, made no random adventures, and indulged in no airy speculations. Many of those who now call themselves merchants, purchase goods upon artificial credit or securities, and without orders, without correspondence, without knowledge of markets, send them, under the direction of chance, to find purchasers in lands to them unknown. The consequences have been, that purchasers could not be found, debts could not be paid, and poverty and ruin have not only fallen upon themselves, but upon those who had confided in them. How different the old merchant and the new: “Look at that picture, and at this!” Patient industry, and decent care, were the only safe and honourable roads to wealth. He knew that he who would approach, as near as man is allowed to approach, the temple of happiness, must do it by measured steps; that wealth if procured, cannot be enjoyed except with moderation, and that whatever keeps the active and mental powers of man employed, bids fairest to secure and preserve his comfort. He, therefore avoided those desperate risques which create extreme anxiety, and confided in the regular, steady, and sober exertions of industry. He disliked all show and ostentation, not only because he regarded them as destructive of comfort, as exciting envy, and every malignant passion, but because he regarded with displeasure all that false appearance of respect and attention which are called forth by them. He saw, with disgust, our mercantile men attempting to rival, in appearance and expense, our nobility, and he wished each order in the community to keep its own place. The foolish fashion of writing every man, who is supposed to be in good circumstances, an esquire, was very offensive to him, and he often expressed his dislike of it, when addressed under that title. The constant benefactor of his own relations, he had also attempted to serve many young men, and advanced them considerable loans; but had so often been disappointed in what he thought his reasonable expectations of their good conduct and success, that at length his patience was exhausted in this way, and after much trouble, anxiety, and loss of property, he concluded it had become very difficult to yield effectual patronage to youth, from the great change which had taken place, in his time, in the habits of young men; he found them generally now without industry, and prone to expenses.”

The above representation may be considered as a picture of an old British merchant, drawn from life, and points out many of the defects of the present state of trade, both in Great Britain and Ireland. By a careful examination we may perceive in the sketch many things held out to be advantageously followed, and many things to be avoided.

The difficulties arising from the system of commercial warfare are daily increasing.

The customs are considerably lessened, from the almost total stoppage of importations from the continent of Europe, and government in the present perplexing state of their finances, find the deficiency so great, that they appear inclined to grant licences to bring in some articles, on which they may have the duties, although the measure is attended with many disadvantages so long as Bonaparte can keep the continent shut against British manufactures. Those interested in each trade endeavour to throw the difficulties off themselves on others, and in this struggle a remonstrance has been presented to the board of trade by the shipping interest against the licencing of foreign vessels. The petitioners represent the necessity of excluding all importations into Britain by foreign ships so long as the restrictions on exports is continued under the influence of the French system. It is expected that a duty will be laid on timber from the North of Europe, in the present session to encourage importations of this article from British America.

A serious rupture with the United States of America may now be expected: at least an interruption of commercial relations, if acts of more direct hostility do not ensue. Congress have passed a supplementary act, and are strictly enforcing their laws against British and Irish trade. By the operation of these acts, the effects are non-intercourse as far as respects British and Irish shipping, and non-importation in their own.

Rumours are in circulation, that the British government have in contemplation by a fresh order in council, to prohibit importation into these countries in American vessels, and thus make the system of non-intercourse complete. They would then shut up the small opening for trade left us by America, in permitting their exports to come to us in their own vessels, and we shall have by a conjoint operation of the two governments a complete non-intercourse system. Such a measure will prevent us from receiving the articles we stand in need of, many of which may be considered as prime materials in our manufactures. The Americans can do better without our manufactures, as their home manufactures especially of linens, cottons, and woollens have of late considerably increased, while a non-importation system will act as a protection to them, till they find they can completely do without ours.

If the British ships of war capture American vessels going into French ports, as by the act of Congress the Americans are permitted to trade with France, since the Berlin and Milan decrees, as far as regards them, are repealed, direct war with the United States, appears inevitable. We shall then have one more blunder added to the many already existing, and national advantage will be once more sacrificed to national pride, and an unwillingness to make just concessions.

A Liverpool correspondent gives the following statement:

"Since the date of our last circular, no occurrence has taken place, to alter our prospects, either with regard to the prices, or the demand; consequently, the fluctuations, in most kinds of American produce, have been very few, and of trifling extent. Our cotton market, though it occasionally experiences a little revival, continues, upon the whole, in a dull state, with but little alteration in the prices. Since the commencement of this year, the imports have been large, compared with the extent of the consumptive demand, which, as may be naturally expected, is now much abridged, and while our foreign relations are so unhappily circumstanced, we cannot look for any great or permanent improvement in the trade of the spinner, and manufacturer.—Pot ashes, of prime quality, are scarcely to be procured in this market, and when a few barrels, perfectly sound, can be selected, they cannot be purchased under 43s. a 44s. per cwt. The inferior sorts are plentiful, and go off at prices proportioned to their various qualities.

"A sale of Barilla was lately attempted by auction, but the demand is so completely suspended, that no purchaser came forward to make an offer of any description, and the prices are, in consequence, altogether nominal.

"The inquiry for almost every species of grain, is so completely suspended, that it is difficult to convey any correct idea of the prices, which could be actually obtained. The export demand to Portugal has greatly subsided, and although the stock of American flour in this market, is confined to two or three parcels; yet, it is almost impossible to effect a sale, on any terms. American and Irish wheat and barley, are all very dull. Oats are rather better, but still in very limited request.

"Timber has continued to meet with a very limited sale, and during the last month, a further reduction was experienced upon all descriptions of pine. Should the additional duty which government intends to impose upon Pine, imported from

the Baltic, take effect upon the 1st of June next, of which there now appears to be little doubt, an advance upon this species of timber is confidently expected."

The cotton trade of this country is in a low state, yet it has the home consumption, although considerably diminished, but in Britain the want of a market on the continent occasions a depression, which from the great reverse is still more severely felt.

As to the linen trade little alteration appears either in the demand for white goods, or in the brown markets.

The supply of flax-seed this year is abundant, and the prices low. Seed from the United States of North America, both of this and last year's importation is in abundance. The want of a supply from Riga and the other ports of the Baltic is compensated by some seed raised in this country last year, and by large importations of English growth.

Another instance of forgery has occurred in this town during last month, on rather a smaller scale. A lax morality appears to prevail with many unacquainted with the necessity of supporting commercial credit in the strictest manner. Forgery is a crime of very injurious tendency in a commercial country. It destroys confidence, and lessens security in all transactions on credit. To intend not to defraud, affords no valid excuse. When the nature of bills and negotiable securities are better understood, it is hoped that more just sentiments will prevail, and this crime become less frequent. The smaller traders have not, till of late, been so much acquainted with transactions in bills. The present extended system of paper multiplies the temptations to improper conduct, and also shows the necessity of greater strictness in avoiding any breach in the rules indispensably necessary to preserve security.

The premium on guineas fell to 7 and 8 per cent. It soon again rose to 10, 12, and 15 per cent. While a disproportion of 27 per cent exists between gold in bullion, and in coin, and since the English have discovered the large quantity that remained in this district, the price here must necessarily continue so high, as to draw away all the disposable guineas in this country. In a short time we may expect that not a guinea will be left here, except the small quantity which people can afford, or are inclined to hoard.

Inconveniences are now suffering in England for want of silver change: the dollars continuing to rise above the depreciation of the paper currency. Unless some measures of redress by the repeal of the bank restriction act, are speedily adopted, to remedy the scarcity of silver, and the almost total disappearance of guineas in general circulation, the effects will force themselves on the consideration even of the most considerate. The causes of depreciation lie deep, and are interwoven intimately in our political and commercial system, in the breaking up of the former overgrown trade of Britain and in the mighty national debt, and increasing expenditure. In the two latter articles, Ireland is fully keeping pace, the expenditure for last year being upwards of 10 millions, and the revenue only about 6½ millions.

Exchange on London is a little higher, than last month, being about 9½ per cent.

### NATURALISTS REPORT.

From March 20, to April 20.

March 21...Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), and Double Daffodil (*Narcissus Pseudo Narcissus*), flowering.

22...Yellow Star of Bethlehem (*Gagea lutea*) flowering.

26...Light Blue Violet (*Viola Canina*), flowering.

27...The Fish called about this country Roach, properly the Rud, Pennants British Zool. No. 170, *Cyprinus erythrophthalmus* Linnaeus, begin to appear near the surface of the water.

28...Double cupped Andromeda (*Andromeda calyculata*), and Common Lungwort, (*Pulmonaria officinalis*), flowering.

April 2...Wheat Ear (*Sylvia Oenanthe*) arrived, and singing.

5...Canadian Medlar (*Mespilus Canadensis*) flowering...Willow Wren (*Sylvia Trochilus*) come and singing.

6...Alpine Wall Cress, (*Arabis Alpina*), flowering.

11...Yellow tipped White Butterfly (*Papilio Cardamines*), appearing...Smaller White Spanish Narcissus (*Narcissus Moschatos*) flowering.

16...Piaintain leaved Crowfoot (*Ranunculus amplexicaulis*)...Italian Squill (*Scilla Ita-*